

NYU Paris

HIST-UA9141,

Topics in French History: Modern France from the Revolution to the Present

Instructor Information

- Dr Vanda Wilcox
- Wednesday, 16h-17h.

Course Information

- HIST-UA9141
- Since 1789, France has been ruled by monarchies, republics, empires and fascism, and has lived through a series of revolutions - while the definition of French identity has continued to evolve. Yet France has held together despite all this instability and change: how and why? In what ways have French understandings of liberty and equality developed, and how do they relate to the quest for stability and social order? How does this history of radicalism relate to the enduring traditions of conservatism and Catholicism within French society? This course introduces students to the key events and developments in French political, social and cultural history since the French Revolution. Two core themes will be explored: colonialism and decolonization, and the specific role of Paris within French society and politics. The course also includes the development of new political ideas and models of state organization such as liberalism, nationalism, socialism and fascism and key social changes over time.
- MW, 14.15-15.45
 - Room 401

Course Overview and Goals

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

- identify and understand key themes and concepts in French history ;
- demonstrate understanding of the impact of the French Revolution on political history in France and the wider world ;
- explain the impact of the colonial era, the world wars and the holocaust on French national history ;
- understand some core concepts of historical research and its methodologies ;

- Critically analyse primary sources and understand how they are used as historical evidence to construct an argument.

Course Requirements

Class Participation

20% of final grade

This is assessed on: active, regular contributions to class discussion which are pertinent, thoughtful and collegial; clear evidence of completing assigned readings and/or visits; asking relevant questions; communicating effectively and coherently with peers.

Assignment 1: Primary Source Discussion Leadership

10% of final grade

Students will introduce and lead a class discussion of one of the assigned primary sources. This means coming to class prepared to summarise and contextualise the assigned text, answer questions about it and suggest points for discussion with the class.

Assignment 2 : French Colonialism paper

20% of final grade

A 6-7 page paper (double-spaced, 12-point type) which explores an aspect of French colonialism using the primary sources collected in *The Great Hanoi Rat Hunt*. Full details will be issued in class.

Assignment 3 : Paris-focused paper

30% of final grade

A 10 page paper (double-spaced, 12-point type) which describes and analyses an event or theme in French history through the specific lens of Paris. This must incorporate one or more sites or locations which you have visited, which may be a site listed on the syllabus or of your own choice. Full details will be issued in class.

Tests & Quizzes

Final Exam: 20% of final exam

A cumulative, essay-based exam.

Grading of Assignments

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

Assignments/Activities	% of Final Grade
Class Participation	[20%]
Discussion Leadership	[10%]
Paper 1: Colonialism	[20%]
Paper 2: Paris	[30%]
Final Exam	[20%]

Letter Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Points	Description
A	16-20	Outstanding
A-	15	Excellent
B+	14	Very Good
B	13	Good
B-	12	Satisfactory
C+	11	Above Average
C	10	Average
C-	9	Below Average
D+	8	Unsatisfactory
D	7	Low Pass
D-	6	Low Pass
F	5	Fail

Course Schedule

Topics and Assignments

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Week 1: 3 Feb	Course Intro; Paris as a site for French history	R. Gillett, "Not Quite Postcolonial Paris: Imperial Voices, a Kiwi Café, and <i>Black Panther</i> ", <i>AHR</i> , 124:3 (2019), 996–1001	
5 Feb	The Ancien Regime	DEWALD, Jonathan. 2019. "Rethinking the 1 Percent: The Failure of the Nobility in Old Regime France," <i>The American Historical Review</i> , 124(3), pp. 911-932,	
Week 2: 10 Feb	The French Revolution	Price, 99-116; <i>The Declaration of the Rights of Man</i> (1789) O. de Gouges, <i>Declaration of the Rights of Woman</i> (1791)	
12 Feb		Price 116-48; E. Burke, <i>Reflections on the French Revolution</i> (1790)	Visit: La Conciergerie
Week 3: 17 Feb	Napoleon, war and restoration	Price 148-64	
19 Feb		C. Fourier, <i>Theory of Social Organization</i> (1820)	Visit: Les Invalides / Musée de l'Armée
Make-up Day: 21 Feb	Revolution of 1830	Price 165-92; <i>The Constitution of 1830</i>	

Week 4: 24 Feb	Revolution of 1848	Price 193-8; Collected Documents on 1848	
26 Feb	The Second Empire and the Commune	Price 198-224	
Week 5: 2 March	Hausmann's Paris	J. Richardson, "Emperor of Paris, Baron Hausmann, 1809-1891", <i>History Today</i> , vol. 25, 1975	Visit: one Hausmann park and one key Hausmann boulevard
4 March	French Imperialism I	Vann, Ch. 1 & 2	
Week 6: 9 March	French Imperialism II	Vann, Ch. 3 & 4; Arthur de Gobineau, On the Inequality of Human Races (1855) Jules Ferry, On French Colonial Expansion (1884)	Visit: <i>Cité nationale de l'histoire de l'immigration</i> at the Palais de la Porte Dorée
11 March	The Third Republic and the Dreyfus Affair	Price 224-39; Zola, <i>J'Accuse</i>	
Week 7: 16 March	The First World War	Price 240-52; R. S. Fogarty, "The French Empire," in Robert Gewarth and Erez Manela, eds., <i>Empires at War, 1911-1923</i> (Oxford University Press, 2014).	First Paper DUE by email
18 March		H. Barbusse, <i>Le Feu</i>	Visit: The Arc de Triomphe / Tomb of the Unknown Soldier assignment
Week 8: 23 March	France in the 1920s and 30s	Price, 252-82	

25 March		J. H. Jackson, (1999). “Making enemies: jazz in inter-war Paris”, <i>French Cultural Studies</i> , 10(29), 179–199.	
Week 9: 30 March 1 April	The Second World War	Price, 282-315 S. Farmer, <i>Martyred Village: Commemorating the 1944 Massacre at Oradour-sur-Glane</i> , University of California Press, 2000. Ch. 1 & 2	Visit: Musée de la Libération FILM: The Sorrow and The Pity
Week 10: 13 APRIL – NO CLASS 15 April	Paris in the Second World War	A. Mitchell, <i>Nazi Paris : The History of an Occupation, 1940-1944</i> . Berghahn Books, 2008, Ch. 5	
Week 11: 20 April 22 April	Post-war – the ‘Trentes Glorieuses’	Price 316-41; S. De Beauvoir, <i>The Second Sex</i> (1953) Price 341-54; J. Monnet and R. Schuman, <i>Memorandum</i>	
Week 12: 27 April	Decolonization and the French-Algerian War	Price 355-72; C. De Gaulle, <i>Speech in Algeria</i> (1958); F. Fanon, <i>The Wretched of the Earth</i> (1961)	FILM: The Battle of Algiers (1966)

29 April		A. Prost, "The Algerian War in French collective memory" in J. Winter & E. Sivan, <i>War and Remembrance in the Twentieth Century</i> , Cambridge UP, 2000, pp. 161-76	VISIT: memorials near the Eiffel tower and on Pont St-Michel
Week 13: 4 May	1968 and its legacies	Price, 373-82; 1968 Protest slogans.	
6 May	Paris transformed	C. Rearick, "Postwar Modernizing and the Resistance of Memory (1945–circa 1980)", in <i>Paris Dreams, Paris Memories: The City and Its Mystique</i> , Stanford UP, 2011	
Week 14: 11 May	France from Mitterrand to Macron	Price, 412-84	FILM: <i>La Haine</i> (1995)
13 May	Conclusions / Revision		Second Paper DUE by email
Week 15	FINAL EXAM		

Course Materials

Required Textbooks & Materials

- R. Price, *A Concise History of France*, 3rd Edition. Cambridge University Press, 2014
- M. G. Vann, *The Great Hanoi Rat Hunt: Empire, Disease And Modernity In French Colonial Vietnam*, Oxford University Press, 2018
- Course reader, available for sale at Mistral Photo, 40 rue St. Jacques, Paris 5^e

Resources

- **Access your course materials:** [NYU Classes](https://nyu.edu/its/classes) (nyu.edu/its/classes)
- **Databases, journal articles, and more:** [Bobst Library](https://library.nyu.edu) (library.nyu.edu)
- **Assistance with strengthening your writing:** [NYU Writing Center](https://nyu.mywconline.com) (nyu.mywconline.com)
- **Obtain 24/7 technology assistance:** [IT Help Desk](https://nyu.edu/it/servicedesk) (nyu.edu/it/servicedesk)

Course Policies

Attendance and Tardiness

- Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student's final course grade for every week's worth of classes missed. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in harsher penalties including failure.
- Unexcused absences affect students' grades: unexcused absences will be penalized with a 2% deduction from the students' final course grade.
- Absences are excused only for illness, religious observance, and emergencies.

Illness: For a single absence, students may be required to provide a doctor's note, at the discretion of the Associate Director of Academics. In the case of two consecutive absences, students must provide a doctor's note. Exams, quizzes, and presentations will not be made up without a doctor's note.

Religious Observance: Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. Students must notify their instructor and the Academic Office in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose. If exams, quizzes, and presentations are scheduled on a holiday a student will observe, the Associate Director, in coordination with the instructor, will reschedule them.

Please note: if you are unable to attend class, you are required to email your professors directly to notify them.

Late Assignment

Late submission or work will be accepted only with justifiable reasons of health or family emergency.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community.

Plagiarism: *presenting others' work without adequate acknowledgement of its source, as though it were one's own. Plagiarism is a form of fraud. We all stand on the shoulders of others, and we must give credit to the creators of the works that we incorporate into products that we call our own. Some examples of plagiarism:*

- *a sequence of words incorporated without quotation marks*
- *an unacknowledged passage paraphrased from another's work*
- *the use of ideas, sound recordings, computer data or images created by others as though it were one's own*
- *submitting evaluations of group members' work for an assigned group project which misrepresent the work that was performed by another group member*
- *altering or forging academic documents, including but not limited to admissions materials, academic records, grade reports, add/drop forms, course registration forms, etc.*

For further information, students are encouraged to check www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html

Disability Disclosure Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

Instructor Bio

- Vanda Wilcox obtained her doctorate at the University of Oxford in 2006, where she also held a Junior Research Fellowship before moving to Rome, Italy. Here she taught at Trinity College (Hartford, IL)'s Rome Campus and at John Cabot University from 2008 to 2018. Her first book, *Morale and the Italian Army in the First World War* was published in 2016 by Cambridge University Press and she has also published two edited collections: *Italy in the Era of the Great War* (Brill, 2018) and *Landscapes of the First World War* (Palgrave 2018, with S. Daly and M. Salvante). Her research and teaching interests centre on the First World War but also include sport, popular culture and collective memory.